The Schwartz Center Announces Richard Bottner, DHA, PA-C, CPHQ, FACHE, as New Chief Clinical Officer

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BOSTON (April 3, 2025)—[The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare](#), a national nonprofit dedicated to partnering with healthcare organizations to advance compassion for patients, care teams, and their healing relationships, has announced the appointment of **Richard Bottner, DHA, PA-C, CPHQ, FACHE, as Chief Clinical Officer**. Dr. Bottner is a leader with more than 20 years of experience spanning healthcare, human resources consulting, caregiver well-being, and entrepreneurship.

As a certified PA with a clinical background in academic hospital medicine, addiction medicine, and palliative care, Dr. Bottner is passionate about team-based healthcare models, quality improvement, and evidence-based operational improvements. Dr. Bottner most recently served at the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) as vice president of clinical excellence. At CHA, he led the association's Center for Clinical Leadership and Excellence, focusing on improving care through legislative and regulatory advocacy, statewide quality improvement initiatives, thought leadership, workforce development, and educational programming.

Prior to CHA, Dr. Bottner was an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at Dell Medical School, where he directed the Buprenorphine Team, a federally funded program providing treatment to hospitalized patients with opioid use disorder. His prior entrepreneurial achievements include starting five companies between the ages of 14 and 24, earning recognition as a Bloomberg Business Week Top 25 U.S. Entrepreneurs Under 25.

"By adding Rich to our leadership team, we've found a leader who doesn't just understand healthcare – he believes in transforming it. His passion for improving both compassionate care and the healthcare worker experience aligns perfectly with our organizational mission," said Schwartz Center CEO Michael Gustafson, MD, MBA.

Dr. Bottner holds a Doctor of Health Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina, a Masters in PA Studies from Quinnipiac University, and a Bachelors in Business Administration from Babson College.

"What drew me to the Schwartz Center was its unwavering dedication to the human side of healthcare," said Dr. Bottner. "As I step into my role as CCO, I'm committed to building partnerships and creating compelling narratives that demonstrate why compassionate care isn't just nice to have – it's necessary for truly effective healthcare."

About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare is a national organization that partners with healthcare organizations to advance compassion for patients, care teams, and their healing relationships. Through programs, education, and advocacy, the Schwartz Center supports the mental health and well-being of the healthcare workforce so they can provide compassionate care to patients and families. With more than 900 organizations running Schwartz Center programs in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and Ireland, the Schwartz Center's evidence-informed programs and resources have proven to be versatile, sustainable and effective across diverse settings, including acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, cancer centers, Veteran's Administration medical centers, organ procurement organizations, nursing homes, hospice providers, and health insurers. To learn more, visit theschwartzcenter.org or follow us on LinkedIn.

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